

S U M M A R Y

FILE NO.	2184	Thomas Guide Map No. 685, 714, 715, 743, 745, 744, 774
		Date Received: 02/15/05
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ENTITY	King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department)/ King County Fire Protection District No 39 (Federal Way Fire Department)	Date Filed:
ACTION	Resolution for Merger of Fire Protection District Service Areas	Expiration 45 Days: 04/01/05
TITLE	Merger of King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department) with King County Fire Protection District No 39 (Federal Way Fire Department) 03/10/05	Board Meeting:

Location	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department):</u> KCFD No. 26 includes the entirety of the City of Des Moines <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department):</u> KCFD No. 39 includes the entirety of the City of Federal Way. The District also encompasses unincorporated territories, including a sizeable corridor immediately east of the City of Federal Way and two small islands surrounded by the City of Kent.
Land Area	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department):</u> Approximately 5.5 square miles <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department):</u> 34 square miles
Land Use	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department):</u> Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Public Uses <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department):</u> Residential, Commercial, Industrial and Public Uses
Population	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department):</u> 30,000 persons <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department):</u> 120,000 persons

Assessed Valuation	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department):</u> \$2,084,794,839 <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department):</u> \$8,311,781,685
County Comprehensive Plan Designation	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department):</u> Not Applicable <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department):</u> <i>Unincorporated King County:</i> Residential Uses
County Zoning	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department):</u> Not Applicable <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department):</u> <i>Unincorporated King County:</i> Residential Uses
City Comprehensive Plan	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department):</u> <i>City of Des Moines:</i> Residential Uses, Commercial Uses, Industrial Uses, Public Uses <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department):</u> <i>City of Federal Way:</i> Residential Uses, Commercial Uses, Industrial Uses, Public Uses
City Zoning	<u>King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department):</u> <i>City of Des Moines:</i> Residential Uses, Commercial Uses, Industrial Uses, Public Uses <u>King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department):</u> <i>City of Federal Way:</i> Residential Uses, Commercial Uses, Industrial Uses, Public Uses
District Comprehensive Plan	Not Applicable.
District Franchise	Not Applicable.
Urban Growth Area (UGA)	Both King County Fire Protection District No. 26 and King County Fire Protection District No. 39 are located within the Urban Growth Area.
SEPA Declaration	Environmental review was conducted for the proposed merger. A Determination of Non-Significance was completed in January 2005.

ENTITIES/AGENCIES NOTIFIED:

King County Council Member(s) Dow Constantine, Julia Patterson, Dwight Pelz, Pete von Reichbauer

King County: Clerk of Council, Department of Assessments, Fire Marshal, Health Division, State Department of Ecology, Puget Sound Regional Council, Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle (Metro)

Cities: Federal Way, Des Moines, Kent, Algona, Auburn, Burien, Milton, Normandy Park, Pacific, Seattle, SeaTac, Tukwila,

Fire Districts: King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department); King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department); King County Fire Protection District No. 2; King County Fire Protection District No. 24, King County Fire Protection District No. 31, City of Milton Fire Department.

Water Districts: Highline Water District, King County Water District No. 54, Lakehaven Utility District, Tacoma Water District.

Sewer Districts: Lakehaven Utility District, Midway Sewer District, Southwest Suburban Sewer District

School District: Federal Way School District No. 210, Highline School District No. 401, Auburn School District No. 408, Fife School District No. 417, Kent School District No. 415;

SUMMARY FILE NO. 2184

King County Fire Protection District No. 26 (Des Moines Fire Department) proposes a merger with King County Fire Protection District No. 39 (Federal Way Fire Department), an independent Fire Protection District. King County Fire Protection District No. 26 boundaries are contiguous with the boundaries of the City of Des Moines. King County Fire Protection District No. 39 includes the entire City of Federal Way. The District also encompasses unincorporated territories, including a substantial corridor immediately east of the City of Federal Way and two small islands surrounded by the City of Kent.

The proposed combined Fire Protection Districts will serve the entire populace of the City of Des Moines, the City of Federal Way, and the small unincorporated parcels within the boundaries of the City of Kent.

The merger between Fire Protection District No. 26 and Fire District No. 39 was proposed in order to improve the overall level of fire protection service to the greater community. More specifically, the Protection Districts currently work in concert so that a merger would serve primarily to formalize organization structure and function. This merger is intended to enhance services through improved efficiencies and reduced costs for facilities and operations management.

Prior to authorizing the merger, the affected Fire Protection Districts conducted studies in order to ensure that this action to combine the Fire Protection Districts would be conducive to public health, welfare and safety, would provide convenient services to customers, and would offer benefits to the natural and built environments in the City of Des Moines, the City of Federal Way, and in the small parcels of land in unincorporated King County.

King County Fire Protection District No. 26 authorized the proposed merger by Resolution dated January 5, 2005. Similarly, King County Fire Protection District No. 39 has authorized the proposed merger by a Resolution dated January 20, 2005. A fully executed copy of the Merger Agreement is provided in the Notice of Intention.

Existing land uses within Fire Protection District No. 26 (City of Des Moines) include primarily residential properties. Limited commercial uses, industrial uses also are present. A variety of public uses exist within the City of Des Moines. Existing land uses within Fire Protection District No. 39 (City of Federal Way) include a full range of residential uses, diverse commercial and industrial uses, and a wide variety of public facilities and spaces. The corridor of unincorporated land between the City of Federal Way and the City of Auburn hosts a range of land uses. The two small unincorporated parcels host residential uses.

All properties would be governed by the underlying jurisdiction – the City of Des Moines, the City of Federal Way, or King County. Thus, the proposed merger would not affect land designations or land uses for developed properties. Similarly, the small number of undeveloped properties would be designated for development under the regulations of the appropriate basic jurisdiction.

King County Fire Protection District representatives report that the merger is consistent with applicable provisions of the Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A) and King County Comprehensive Plan/Countywide Planning Policies. For example, King County Comprehensive Plan policies which support this merger include:

- F-205 which encourages combining of public services and facilities to improve effectiveness of operation;
- F-215 which calls for coordinated planning for public services; and
- F-220 which calls for sharing of essential public facilities to enhance efficiencies

Representatives from King County Fire District No. 26 and No. 39 report that the currently proposed extension of services is consistent with the provisions of RCW 36.93 (Boundary Review Board Regulations). More specifically, RCW 36.93.180 requires that such actions be evaluated with respect to nine objectives. In this application, several key objectives have been identified as being potentially relevant for specific consideration, including:

- Objective 1: Preservation of neighborhoods,
- Objective 3: Creation and preservation of logical service areas,
- Objective 4: Prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries, and
- Objective 7: Adjustment of impractical boundaries

More specifically, Fire Protection District representatives report that the merger would support the preservation of the community (Objective 1) by offering coordinated services that will protect and enhance existing formally defined adjacent and related communities.

Similarly, the proposed merger will enable a more coordinated, efficient service system for the community, as envisioned in Objective 3, Objective 4, and Objective 7. Existing facilities (e.g., stations, equipment, facilities) will remain in place following the merger. These facilities are generally adequate to serve current and anticipated new customers -- however, following the merger, upgrades to selected operating systems may be provided to improve services to specific areas as appropriate to provide for public safety and welfare.

The communities receiving fire services from the combined Fire Protection Districts will continue to receive water services from the current service providers, including Highline Water District, King County Water District No. 54, Lakehaven Utility District, and Tacoma Water District.

The communities receiving fire services from the combined Fire Protection Districts will continue to receive sewer services from the current service providers, including Lakehaven Utility District, Midway Sewer District, Southwest Suburban Sewer District

The Fire Protection Districts have undertaken a fiscal analysis that provides direction with respect to management of funding resources, revenues and expenditures related to the specific merger and the provision of services following the combination of Fire Protection District No. 26 and Fire Protection District No. 39. No significant changes in expenditures or revenues are anticipated for affected jurisdictions as a result of the proposed merger for fire services. Rather, it is anticipated that the merger will provide economic efficiencies that will benefit the citizens of Des Moines, Federal Way, and the small parcels located in unincorporated King County.